

INFORMATION REPORT

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REPORT NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY Peru

DATE DISTR. 31 August 1943

SUBJECT Conference with President Bustamante Regarding
Implementation of Constituent Decree of 6 August

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO

25X1X

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. It is reported that a meeting took place on 14 August 1943 at the Palace of the Peruvian President to confer on measures to be taken to implement the Constituent Assembly Decree of 6 August. The following persons took part in the discussions: President Bustamante, ex-President Manuel Prado, Victor Andres Belaunde, Jorge Basadre, Carlos Echeaguar Garcia, Luis Miro Quesada, and Dionedes Arias Schreiber.
2. Discussion centered around the composition of the Constituent Assembly. All of those present, except Miro Quesada, agreed that there would have to be some sort of popular elections at some point. All, however, agreed with Manuel Prado, who led the meeting in the role of senior statesman, that unless the Assembly were rigged, Peru might expect 30 years of Aprista rule.
3. President Bustamante, who stressed his role of "listener" at the meeting, expressed his personal opinion that, as he read the Constitution, it would be possible to elect the Senators by "gremios" and that the Senate could be augmented in that manner. In his opinion, however, the future deputies would have to be elected in popular elections.
4. It was the consensus of the conferees that these elections should be held province by province, starting with those provinces in which APRA has the least strength. In this manner they hope to be able to build up what will appear to be a growing popular wave of anti-Aprista votes.
5. With the exception of the President and Basadre, everyone at the meeting agreed that Villegas as Minister of Government would be incompetent to administer this project. Basadre defended Villegas, apparently acting as the President's spokesman.

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letter of 18 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: 2008

Document No. 9
NO CHANGE in Class. ☐
☒ DECLASSIFIED
Class. CHANGED TO: TS S O
DDA Memo. 1 APR 77
Auth: DDA RFG. 10 APR 77
Date: 12 May 78 033

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